

20.—A NEW SPECIES OF PIT VIPER FROM SOUTH INDIA: *TRIMERESURUS HUTTONI* SP. NOV.

Description of the type. Snout sharp, distinctly upturned, its edge continuous with the equally sharp canthus rostralis. Upper head scales unequal subimbricate, some of them obtusely keeled, 10 or 11 in a line between the supraoculars; these are narrow and entire but have their inner margins indented by the adjacent scales; internasals not twice as large as the adjacent scales, separated from one another by two small scales; supralabials, the first entirely separated from the nasal, the third much larger than the others; temporals strongly keeled.

Scales in 21: 23: 19 rows, indistinctly keeled on the posterior part of the body: Ventrals 146; anal entire; subcaudals 52 pairs.

Colour Green above, paler on the sides, with a distinct series of dorso-lateral, paired, small, white spots; pale green below; a white temporal streak, edge with red below; it is continued forwards in front of the eye; tip of snout and end of tail dull red.

Total length 138, tail 40 mm.

The paratype agrees well with the type. It has a single scale between the internasals; there are 8 scales in line between the supraoculars, ventrals 139 subcaudals 49. Total length 139, tail 41 mm.

The sharp upturned snout of this new species of viper gives it a resemblance to the Malayan *T. borneensis*; in general scalation, except for the separation of the first labial from the nasal, it is related to *T. erythrurus*.

Trimeresurus huttoni is described from two juveniles, both evidently belonging to the same brood. They were captured together in the High Wavy Mountains, Madura District, South India; altitude 5,200 feet, by Mr. Angus F. Hutton, after whom I have much pleasure in naming it.

The type has been presented to the British Museum (Natural History), and the paratype has been retained by Mr. Hutton for his own collection.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON,

MALCOLM A. SMITH

2nd April, 1949.

21.—NOTES ON A SECOND SPECIMEN OF THE SKINK
DASIA SUBCAERULEA FROM SOUTHERN INDIA

Dasia subcaerulea has until now been known from a single specimen caught at Bodinaikkanur (Madura District) altitude 1,100 feet, and described by Mr. G. A. Boulenger in 1891. Mr. Hutton has now obtained a second specimen from the High Wavy Mountains, altitude 5,900 feet, and about 10 miles S. E. of Bodinaikkanur.

Except that the pre-anal scales are not enlarged, it agrees well with the description of the type, so that the resemblance of

this species in scalation to the Indo-Chinese-Malayan *D. olivacea* is more complete than before.

In general colouration it also agrees, except that the two black streaks upon the neck of *subcaerulea* are never present in *olivacea*.

The digits of the type of *subcaerulea* are shrivelled as I have stated in my description (Fauna Brit. India, p. 278). This is due to desiccation.

The digits of this second specimen are also unfortunately damaged, the result of being burnt. It was caught on the ground after a forest fire. Those sub-digital lamellae, however that are still undamaged, are enlarged basally, and suggest that this species like its ally has aboreal habits.

When caught Mr. Hutton's specimen was light greenish-yellow in colour above with black and white spots as in the type. This colouration has now disappeared, and the specimen is dark brown above, so dark that the spots are hardly visible. The appearance is of a specimen that at some time has been placed in formalin.

It is considerably larger than the type having a length of 70 mm. from snout to vent; most of the tail is missing.

This specimen has also been presented to the British Museum (Natural History).

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON,

MALCOLM A. SMITH

3rd March, 1949.

22.—EGG-LAYING BY THE INDIAN PYTHON IN CAPTIVITY

The December (1947) number of the *Journal* has a note by me on the breeding of the Indian Python. That note records that on 9 June 1947 a pet python of mine laid sixteen eggs; no male python had been (and has been) in the cage since 28 March 1938. Further information:—

On 6 June 1948 the same python laid twenty eggs, thirteen of them being of normal size and colour. These were $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches measured round the centre, and $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches round the ends.

On 5 June 1949 the same python laid eighteen eggs, twelve of them being of normal size and colour. These were $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches measured round the centre, and 10 inches round the ends.

The eggs that were not normal were only about half the size of the others, hard, discoloured, dirty brown and sausage-shaped.

LOYOLA COLLEGE,

MADRAS,

C. LEIGH, S.J.

6th June, 1949.